



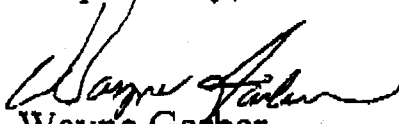
December 27, 2004

Cheri Emery
Standardization Section
U S Department of Agriculture

As a sweet potato grower, packer and shipper I am intensely concerned with official grade designations for our shipments. I have long requested updating grade standards to allow for a #1 quality grade for small-petite sized potatoes. My customers want to be able to know that the quality of their pack meets USDA standards of #1 grades. Not being able to give them this creates confusion in the market place and does not allow chain stores to represent the quality as #1 to the consumers. Another disadvantage of not being able to designate our quality on small-petite sweet potatoes as #1 is that it gives our buyers a reason to pay lower prices for these packs.

Considering current market demands and economic issues I herein request that the proposed US#1 small-petite grade be implemented as proposed in the federal register.

Respectfully,


Wayne Garber